

of his country, and its republican constitution. The justices thus chosen by every ward, would constitute the County court, would do its judiciary business, direct roads, and bridges, levy County and poor rates, and administer all the matters of common interest to the whole country. These wards, called townships in New England, are the vital principle *of* their governments, and have proved themselves the wisest invention ever devised by the wit of man for the perfect exercise of self-government and for its preservation. We should thus marshal our government into, 1, the general Federal republic, for all concerns foreign and Federal; 2, that of the State, for what relates to our own citizens exclusively; 3, the County republics, for the duties and concerns *of* the County; and, 4, the ward republics, for the small, and yet numerous and interesting concerns of the neighborhood; and in government, as well as in every other business of life, it is by division of duties alone that all matters, great and small, can be managed to perfection. And the whole is cemented by giving to every citizen, personally, a part in the administration of the public affairs. (To Samuel Kercheval, 1816. C. VII., 12.)

TOWNSHIPS.—Among other improvements, I hope they will adopt the subdivision of our Counties into wards. The former may be estimated at an average of twenty-four miles square; the latter should be about six miles square each, and would answer to the hundreds of your Saxon Alfred. In each of these might be, 1st, An elementary school; 2d, A company of militia, with its officers; 3d, A justice of the peace and constable; 4th, Each ward should take care of their own poor; 5th, Their own roads; 6th, Their own police; 7th, Elect within themselves one or more jurors to attend the courts of justice; and, 8th, Give in at their Folk-house their votes for all functionaries reserved to their election. Each ward should thus be a small republic within itself, and every man in the State would thus become an acting member of the common government, transacting in person, a great portion of its rights and duties, subordinate indeed, yet important, and entirely within his competence. The wit of man cannot devise a more solid basis for a free, durable